condition of the subjects of the State. It was necessary to know whether, with the increase in the daily wants of the people, their income was also increasing. If not, the reasons therefor should be ascertained. Similarly, if the income was proportionately increasing with the wants, the question as to how far the increase in the income was helpful to root out unemployment should be known. The Government had been increasing the burden of taxation without actually ascertaining the financial condition of the people and no statistics were available for the purpose. The Government were not also trying to compile any such statistics. The need for an economic survey had been urged upon the Government from the second session of the Assembly onwards. As an unemployment committee had been appointed, it would be well if an economic survey be also conducted.

Passing on to the causes of unemployment among the agriculturists, the member said that, on an average, only 56 cents of arable land were available per head of the population. Many Travancoreans had no lands of their own. In view to conserve lands for the ever-increasing population of the State, the Government had passed a rule that non-Travancoreans should obtain the previous sanction of the Government for the registry of lands in their names. The rule was since abrogated and large extents of land were registered in favour of non-Travancoreans. That policy increased unemployment among the agriculturists. In view to put a stop to the free acquisition of large extents of land by the rich, the Government put a restraint on such acquisition by ruling that not more than 10 acres of land should be assigned to a single individual at the same time. That policy too had been changed and consequently unemployment was increasing. To avert the contingency of land becoming short for future generations, the Government should follow a fixed policy of distributing land to the landless people of the State. Facilities should also be afforded for the development of agriculture. The chief means for such development was the restoration and proper maintenance of minor irrigation works or the opening of canals for channel irrigation. The Government were not paying adequate attention in those directions. In South Travancore, many lands were damaged by floods and others were suffering from scarcity of water. When agriculture ceased to be paying, agriculturists took to other occupations after leasing out their lands. That was another reason for the existence of unemployment among agriculturists. A portion of the surplus in the State coffers should be set apart for reproductive works on irrigation.

Formerly, agriculturists, besides pursuing their main occupation, were also pursuing secondary occupations such as cattle-breeding and spinning. Those had been abandoned and people were hunting after salaried service. The facts were referred to in the questionnaire framed by the Unemployment Committee. But a report submitted on the basis of the replies received would not be comprehensive and satisfactory. The committee should take the evidence of people in the mofussil, enquire into the reasons, if any, for the abandonment of their original occupations and the kinds of occupations that were thus abandoned. A programme of work should be prepared by the Government for the purpose.

The President of the committee could not bestow his whole time to his work on the committee and therefore could not do full justice to the responsibility entrusted to him. It would be well if he be detailed for the work on the committee alone till its report was submitted.

154. Unemployment.

MR. K. K. NARAYANAN NAIR (*Member, Tiruvalla taluk*) in thanking the Government for constituting the Unemployment Committee referred to some of the causes of unemployment and offered some suggestions for solving that problem in the State. Travancore was mainly an agricultural country and more than 7,00,000 acres of land had been brought under the plough, yielding an annual output of nearly 2¼ lakhs of tons of paddy. Judged from those figures, the average quantity of rice per head of population was much less than half a *nali* a day.

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Secondly, Travancore was very thickly populated. In Tiruvalla, the population was 1,245 per square mile, in Kartikapalli 1,593 and in Karunagapalli 1,776 while, in the British Isles, it was only 391 per square mile. The inhabitants of the above-said and other taluks in the State mainly depended on agriculture for their livelihood but on an average, one person in the above-said taluks had only 25 cents of land. Agriculture was the mainstay of the people of Travancore. Excepting a few money-lenders, the so called traders in the country were really dealers in agricultural products. The previous Censuses had shown that the population in Travancore doubled itself once in fifty years while in England a similar increase took place in 75 years. The main reasons for the disparity was that, in England, there was scope for migration. There were no such facilities in Travancore and the population was increasing at a rapid rate. Hence a large number of people were without employment. Unless the Government paid adequate attention to solve this problem at an early date, it was sure to grow more and more complicated in future.

The area of cultivable land in the State should be increased. All the available *puduval* lands in the State, excepting a few rocky areas and waste lands, had already been registered. But it would be seen from the *Economic Journal* that about 11,00,000 acres of land were kept uncultivated by speculators. In the opening address to the twenty-second session of the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly, it was stated that there was necessity for deprecating speculation in land, that all the registered *puduval* lands had not been brought under cultivation, that the State had not derived the maximum benefit therefrom and that the advisability of penalising non-cultivation should be considered. It did not appear that the matter was taken up for consideration as stated above. More than one-third of the area of the whole State was covered by reserved forests. Excluding the Periyar and the Cardamom Hills Reserves, there were more than 2,000 square miles of reserved forest and the question was whether such a large area should be reserved. About 1,000 suqare miles at and near the sources of rivers should be conserved as reserves and the rest disafforested and assigned in small blocks of 5 acres each during the next 20 years. Every year, 50 square miles of land adjacent to inhabited places should be assigned in favour of applicants recommended by co-operative societies. Such registry should be effected only after all the uncultivated land in the hands of speculators were cleared and cultivated. Therefore the first step in the direction of extension of cultivation was to compel the speculators to cultivate their lands or relinquish them in favour of the Government. That would give employment to a large number of persons.

A second remedy for unemployment was the introduction and development of various industries. Travancore afforded ample scope for many industries. Silk industry for example, could easily be developed. It was tried in Central Travancore but ended in failure. The Sericultural Farm near Tiruvalla did not also thrive well. In Changanachery, a private farm was opened and the trees planted there for the rearing of silk-worms grew up well but the worms died, with the advent of summer every year so that fresh eggs had to be got down from Bangalore. Financially, it was not successful. But the member suggested that the industry could be tried in Peermade where the climatic conditions almost resembled those of Bangalore.

Besides silk industry, city industries could also be developed. City industries primarily meant industries such as the manufacture of cotton and woollen goods. England like Travancore was not suited for the growth of cotton but cotton industry took the first rank among the industries in England. It would be advantageous to follow the example of England in that direction. Spinning could be undertaken by all people irrespective of age and strength. Vigorous attempts should be made for the introduction of spinning in all schools. In Vernacular Schools, it should be made compulsory but in English Schools it might be made optional for some time to come. Although there might be waste of yarn in the initial stages of the industry, it was sure to be a success in the long run. Weaving might also be introduced with advantage in those schools where there was spinning.

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Woollen industry was next in importance to cotton industry and could successfully be carried on in Travancore. The climatic conditions of the High Range of Travancore were similar to those of England. Sheep rearing could therefore be done in the High Range, in Peermade, Ponmudi and such other places. As a beginning, a sheep-breeding farm should be opened in a suitable place in the High Range and a small number of sheep imported from England and if the experiment proved successful, the industry should be started on a larger scale.

Mining was another profitable industry which could be tried. There were many mines to be worked in Travancore. The Travancore Minerals Company and Messrs. Hopkins and Williams, companies incorporated in England, were carrying on mining business in Travancore. Another company had taken away enormous quantities of mica from Eraniel. Though there were valuable ores in the hills, nothing had been done to investigate them. There was not even a Mining Act in Travancore. A Mining Bill should therefore be introduced at an early date in the Legislative Council. An expert in mining should also be got down to assist the mining engineers and the work should be started in earnest.

Sand and clay in some parts of Travancore were good for making glass wares and earthenwares. The earthenware jars, which were so much in demand were once being made by Chinamen who lived somewhere near Kunnatnad, years ago. Dr. Barker had stated that he had discovered kaolin in Travancore and that porcelain industry could be established in the State. But the Government had not done anything to start those industries.

The forests of Travancore were producing rich dye-stuffs. Experiments should be conducted by experts to ascertain whether the manufacture of dyes could not be carried on with success in Travancore.

Sugar manufacture was another industry which could be carried on on a large scale. Sugarcane, tapioca, sweet potatoes, jack seeds, etc., were raw materials from which sugar could be manufactured. Private concerns ended in failure for want of proper help from the Government.

In regard to the industrial development in general, the member suggested that Japan should be taken as a model rather than England. Japan was wholly oriental in her development and would therefore serve as a better model than England. Students of the State should therefore be sent out to Japan for industrial education.

Travancoreans should be encouraged to take to tea cultivation. At Konni, there were extensive forest lands north of the Government teak plantation. A portion should be disafforested and assigned to members of co-operative credit societies for tea cultivation. The leaves collected could be converted to tea dust or rolled tea in the factory established by Messrs. Harrisons and Crosfield, Ltd., in the estate near by. The Government should help the societies by lending them money for cultivating the land. The idea of registering lands near the sources of the Pambayar and its tributaries should be given up as the clearing of the area was sure to affect the rainfall of the country and the paddy cultivation in Central Travancore.

Greater facilities should be afforded for the development of agriculture in the State. Such development depended, to a large extent, upon long-term loans at low rates of interest. Land Mortgage Banks should therefore be established and loans advanced to ryots for periods covering 12 to 24 years with interest at 3 per cent. per *annum*.

The existing system of education was defective. The students trained in the schools were fit for Government service only. As the Government could not afford to provide appointments for all students coming out successful in the examinations year after year, many were unemployed. Technical education should therefore be imparted on a large scale so that the students might be able to rely on their training for their livelihood. Technical schools should be opened in all the chief centers of the State.

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In conclusion, the member said that, as a result of partitions under the Nayar, Ezhava and Vellala Regulations, many members of those communities had been rendered landless. They should therefore be given *puduval* lands not exceeding 3 acres each at concessional rates on their application.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Madhavan Pillai, and Mr. Narayanan Nair, I shall have the report of your very interesting speeches communicated to the Unemployment Committee who, I am sure, will find your suggestions valuable. I shall also have them communicated to the Director of Agriculture and to the Director of Industries who, I am sure, will give to both of your suggestions patient attention.

155. Economic Development.

MR. JACOB CURIEN (*Member, Nominated*) said that he was glad to find that the attention of the Government had been drawn to the question of unemployment in the State. The appointment of a committee to suggest remedies for unemployment testified to the earnestness of the Government in the matter.

Passing on, he said that the Government were no doubt bestowing adequate attention to promotion of the health and education of the people in the country; but they had not realised that the quantity of food-stuffs produced in the State was not sufficient to meet the demands of the people. They had not also devised measures for increasing the resources of the country in view to supply the demands of an ever-increasing population. Statistics had shown that Rs. 2 crores worth of paddy and rice were being annually imported into the State but the value of the articles exported from the State was much less. It could not be denied that in Travancore there were enough lands to produce all the quantity of paddy which was being annually imported and that fact had been impressed upon the Government several times. It was as a result of such representations that the Government decided to disafforest the available areas for paddy cultivation. But it was regrettable to note that the disafforestation of a major portion of the lands selected by the Disafforestation Committees was objected to by the Conservator of Forests. Although nobody would object the reservation of valuable forests for scientific exploitation, it was necessary to set apart as much land as possible for paddy cultivation, especially when the people were suffering from want of arable land. Excluding forest areas, there were about a hundred thousand acres of land on the sides of backwaters which could be advantageously assigned for paddy cultivation. The matter should receive the earnest consideration of the Government inasmuch as the importation of a large quantity of paddy and other articles was sure to undermine the economic condition of the State.

Extension of railways was one of the means of removing the poverty of the people. The development of any country was due to the introduction of railways. An investment on railways was more profitable than an investment on industry. The extension of railways in the State should therefore be taken up at an early date.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Jacob Curien, the House like myself listened with great interest to all you had to say and all that you said so well. In particular I am pleased to find some one who has studied the question of railways in relation to roads and who has arrived at a settled opinion on the subject. Your other suggestions in the earlier part of your speech were also very instructive and I hope they have been taken down and will appear in the recorded proceedings.

The Assembly adjourned at 4-45 P. M. to meet again at 11 A. M. on Saturday, the 5th March, 1927.

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